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(54) **Temperature controller in optical communication device and method for same**

(57) Disclosed is a temperature controller and method for maintaining an optical communication device at a constant temperature regardless of ambient temperature variation. The temperature controller includes: a temperature sensor for detecting the current temperature of a device which is to be temperature-controlled; and, a temperature comparison section for comparing the current temperature detected by the temperature sensor with the predetermined temperature that is a proper operating temperature for the device, wherein

the temperature comparison section further includes: a differential amplifier for outputting the difference between signals which are inputted respectively into anode and cathode terminals; and first, second, third, and fourth resistance pads which are selectively short-circuited with one another according to temperature sensor type so as to vary the polarity of the signals input into the differential amplifier so that PTC and NTC sensors can be used at the same time in a single PCB regardless of temperature sensor type.

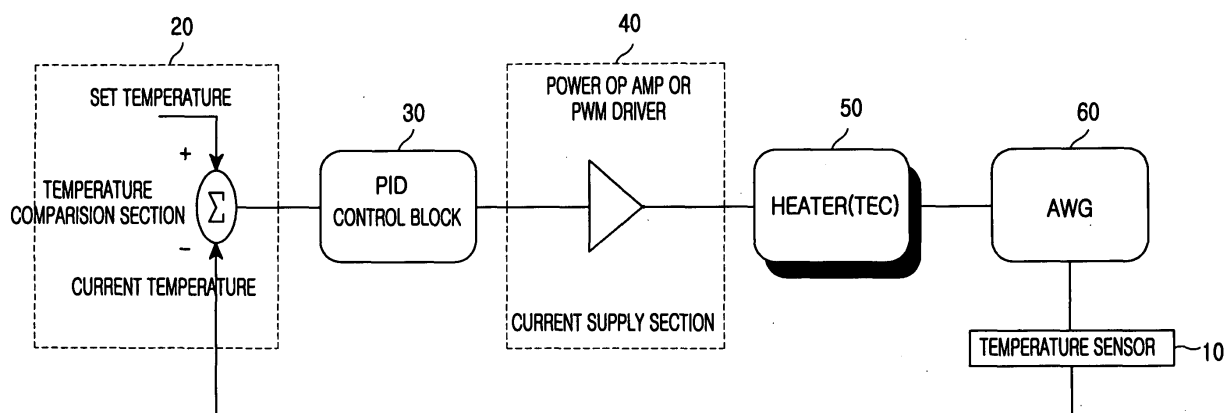


FIG. 1

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a temperature controller designed to maintain an optical communication device at a constant temperature regardless of ambient temperature variations.

[0002] In general, optical communication devices such as a laser diode and an Arrayed Wavelength Grating (hereinafter, referred to as AWG) which are used in Wavelength Division Multiplexing (hereinafter, referred to as WDM) are sensitive to ambient temperature variations. It is preferred that optical communication devices as described above employ a temperature controller to maintain a constant temperature, so as to restrict wavelength transition of a transmitted optical signal and stabilize wavelength of a demultiplexed optical signal in WDM optical transmission and WDM-PON (Passive Optical Network) transmission, thereby realizing a stable optical system free from interference from adjacent optical channels.

[0003] Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing the construction of a temperature controller in a general optical communication device, in which the temperature controller includes a temperature sensor 10, a temperature comparison section 20, a PID control section 30, a current supply section 40 and a temperature control section 50.

[0004] The temperature sensor 10 detects the current temperature of an optical communication device 60 such as the AWG. The temperature sensor utilizes a thermistor, or Pt resistance temperature detector, whose resistance varies according to temperature variations. The Pt resistance temperature detector has a Positive Temperature Coefficient (hereinafter, referred to as PTC) in which its resistance increases as temperature rises. The thermistor has a PTC or Negative Temperature Coefficient (hereinafter, referred to as NTC) according to the composition of the materials thereof.

[0005] The temperature comparison section 20 compares a predetermined temperature with a current temperature and generates an error voltage V_{err} corresponding to the difference between the predetermined and current temperature voltages. The temperature controller establishes the predetermined temperature by applying a voltage with a general purpose microcontroller and a Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC) or directly applying a reference voltage V_{ref} . The temperature controller reads a resistance of the temperature sensor 10 attached to the optical communication device 60, such as the AWG, converts the resistance into a current voltage V_{cur} and then compares the current voltage V_{cur} with that of the predetermined temperature so as to obtain the current temperature. The compared error voltage is applied to the PID control section 20.

[0006] The PID control section 30 receives the error voltage from the temperature comparison section, adjusts an output voltage so as to conform the current temperature to the predetermined temperature, and applies the output voltage into the current supply section 40.

The PID control section may selectively use P-, PI-, PD-, PID-control circuits and so on according to temperature variation characteristics.

[0007] The current supply section 40 amplifies the output voltage from the PID control section 30 into a high current using a power operational amplifier (hereinafter, referred to as OPA) or a PWM (Pulse Width Modulation) driver, and supplies the high current to the temperature control section 50.

[0008] The temperature control section 50 controls the temperature of the optical communication device 60, based upon the high current applied from the current supply section 40. The polarity of the current applied to the temperature control section 50 is determined by the polarity of the error voltage V_{err} which is the difference between the predetermined and current temperature voltages in the temperature comparison section 20. If the error voltage indicates a positive voltage, a positive current is generated. If the error voltage indicates a negative voltage, a negative current is generated. Such a temperature controller may include a heater, a Thermo-Electric Cooler (hereinafter, referred to as TEC) and so on. In general, the TEC is in the form of a device for heating or cooling an object to be temperature controlled, and used to maintain the temperature of a WDM laser diode. The TEC or heater is used for the AWG, in which the heater heats an object to be temperature-controlled regardless of the polarity of the applied current.

[0009] In the temperature controller having the above construction, it compares the current temperature voltage with the predetermined temperature voltage using an Instrument Amplifier (hereinafter, referred to as IA) circuit so that any error can be precisely amplified via the OP amplifier and the differential amplifier using the OPA.

[0010] Fig. 2 is a diagram showing a construction of a temperature comparison section of a temperature controller employed in a conventional optical communication device. First, the case where the temperature comparison section utilizes an IA and employs a Pt resistance temperature detector 51 as a temperature sensor will be described below.

[0011] The Pt resistance temperature detector shows a PTC characteristic, that is a resistance variation according to temperature, in which the resistance thereof is 100Ω at 0°C and increases 0.385Ω for each 1°C rise in temperature.

[0012] In conversion of a resistance of the Pt resistance temperature detector into a voltage, where it is supposed that a reference voltage V_{ref} is 3 V, a resistance R is 100Ω , and a predetermined temperature is 70°C , a predetermined temperature voltage V_1 is set as 1.678V and is input into an anode terminal of the IA 21 while a current temperature voltage is input into a cathode terminal of the IA 21. Then, an output error voltage 22 of the temperature comparison section is applied with a positive polarity into a heater or TEC having a temperature maintenance function with the positive polarity

current at a current supply terminal, so as to maintain a desired temperature.

[0013] Next, the temperature comparison section may utilize a thermistor 51 having an NTC characteristic. The thermistor shows a resistance of 100kΩ at 25°C and about 14.6kΩ at 70°C. Where R is 100kΩ, the voltage of the set temperature is about 0.382V. The set temperature is input into the cathode terminal of the IA while the current temperature voltage is input into an anode terminal of the IA so as to supply current to the TEC or heater through the PID control.

[0014] The current temperature voltage increases approaching the predetermined temperature in the PTC sensor as set forth above while the current temperature voltage decreases to approach the predetermined temperature in the NTC sensor. That is, the current temperature voltage is input into the anode terminal of the IA in the case of the PTC sensor but into the cathode terminal of the IA in the case of the NTC sensor thereby restricting application of the NTC and PTC sensors in a single PCB at the same time.

[0015] It is the object of the present invention to provide a temperature controller in an optical communication device, which can incorporate a PTC sensor and an NTC sensor simultaneously, even while using a single PCB, regardless of the type of temperature sensor.

[0016] This object is solved by the subject matters of the independent claims. Preferred embodiments are defined in the dependent claims.

[0017] One aspect of the present invention is to provide a temperature controller in an optical communication device, including:

a temperature sensor for detecting the current temperature of a device which is to be temperature-controlled; and, a temperature comparison section for comparing the current temperature detected by the temperature sensor with a predetermined temperature that is a proper operating temperature for the device, wherein the temperature comparison section further includes: a differential amplifier for outputting the difference between signals which are input respectively into anode and cathode terminals; a first resistance pad connected to the temperature sensor; a second resistance pad connected to the anode terminal of the differential amplifier and spaced apart from the first resistance pad; a third resistance pad connected to the cathode terminal of the differential amplifier and spaced apart from the first and second resistance pads; and, a fourth resistance pad for receiving a signal corresponding to the set temperature and spaced apart from the first, second, and third resistance pads, wherein the first to fourth resistance pads are selectively short-circuited with one another according to temperature sensor type so as to vary the polarity of the signals input into the differential amplifier.

[0018] In the embodiment, the temperature sensor includes a PTC sensor, and the first and second resistance pads are short-circuited with each other, and the third and fourth resistance pads are short-circuited with each other. The temperature sensor includes an NTC sensor, and the first and third resistance pads are short-circuited with each other, and the second and fourth resistance pads are short-circuited with each other. Further, the temperature controller further includes at least one resistor of 0Ω for short-circuiting the resistance pads with one another.

[0019] In another embodiment of the present invention, a method of maintaining the temperature of an optical communication device is provided. The method includes the steps of: detecting the current temperature of a device which is to be temperature-controlled; comparing the current temperature to a predetermined temperature to be maintained; generating a signal which represent the difference between the current temperature and the predetermined temperature; and, providing four resistance pads which are selectively short-circuited with one another according to temperature sensor type so as to vary the polarity of the signals input into the differential amplifier.

Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating the construction of a temperature controller in a general optical communication device;

Fig. 2 illustrates a temperature comparison section of a temperature controller in a general optical communication device;

Fig. 3 is a PCB layout of a temperature comparison section of a temperature controller in an optical communication device of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a PCB layout of a temperature comparison section of the present invention using an NTC temperature sensor; and,

Fig. 5 a PCB layout of a temperature comparison section of the present invention using a PTC temperature sensor.

[0020] In accordance with the present invention, a preferred embodiment of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to Figs. 3 to 5. In these drawings, it is to be understood that like reference numerals or symbols refer to like elements even though they are shown in different drawings. For the purposes of clarity and simplicity, well-known functions or constructions will not be described in detail as they would unnecessarily obscure the understanding of the invention.

[0021] Fig. 3 is a PCB layout of a temperature comparison section of a temperature controller in an optical communication device of the invention.

[0022] As shown in Fig. 3, the temperature comparison section of the temperature controller of the invention is designed in such a manner that a differential amplifier 100, e.g. IA and OPA, can execute positive and negative

input using resistance pads 1 to 4 at the front end in a single PCB.

[0023] The resistance pads include the first resistance pad 1 connected to a temperature sensor, the second resistance pad 2 connected to an anode terminal of the differential amplifier 100, the third resistance pad 3 connected to a cathode terminal of the differential amplifier 100, and the fourth resistance pad 4 for receiving a signal corresponding to a set temperature. The resistance pads 1 to 4 are arranged so as to be spaced the same vertical and horizontal distance from one another. Based upon a terminal into which the signal is inputted, a procedure for short-circuiting the resistance pads is provided. This procedure will be explained in detail in reference to Figs. 4 and 5 as follows.

[0024] Fig. 4 illustrates a PCB layout where an NTC sensor is used. The temperature controller using the NTC sensor has a current temperature voltage larger than a predetermined temperature voltage, and decreases the current temperature voltage through temperature control. In the temperature controller using the NTC sensor, the current temperature voltage is inputted into the anode terminal of the IA 100 and the predetermined temperature voltage is inputted into the cathode terminal of the IA 100.

[0025] Referring to Fig. 4, in order to input the current temperature detected via the NTC sensor into the anode terminal of the IA 100, the first and second resistance pads 1 and 2 are short-circuited with each other via a resistor 12 of 0Ω . In order to input the predetermined temperature into the cathode terminal of the IA 100, the third and fourth resistance pads 3 and 4 are short-circuited with each other via a resistor 34 of 0Ω .

[0026] Fig. 5 illustrates a PCB layout where a PTC temperature sensor is used. The temperature controller using the PTC sensor has a current temperature voltage less than a predetermined temperature voltage, and increases the current temperature voltage through temperature control. In the temperature controller using the PTC sensor, the current temperature voltage is inputted into the cathode terminal of the IA 100 and the predetermined temperature voltage is inputted into the anode terminal of the IA 100.

[0027] Referring to Fig. 5, in order to input the current temperature detected via the PTC sensor into the cathode terminal of the IA 100, the first and third resistance pads 1 and 3 are short-circuited with each other via a resistor 13 of 0Ω . In order to input the predetermined temperature into the anode terminal of the IA, the second and fourth resistance pads 2 and 4 are short-circuited with each other via a resistor 24 of 0Ω .

[0028] As set forth above, the present invention can selectively short-circuit the first to fourth resistance pads with one another according to the temperature sensor in use for the temperature controller so as to vary the polarity of signals inputted to the differential amplifier. Therefore, the PTC and NTC sensors can be used simultaneously resulting in a savings of cost and time

since the manufacturing of additional PCB's is not necessary.

[0029] While the present invention has been shown and described in connection with the preferred embodiment, it is to be understood to those skilled in the art can make various modifications and variations to the present invention without departing from the scope of the appended claims. For example, the voltage applied to the input terminal of the IA or OPA in addition to the temperature controller can be varied according to short-circuiting methods of the resistance pads. Accordingly the scope of the present invention is not be restricted to the foregoing embodiment of the invention but shall be defined by the following claims and equivalents thereof.

Claims

1. A temperature controller used in an optical communication device for conforming a current temperature, comprising:

a temperature sensor arranged for detecting the current temperature ; and

a temperature comparison section adapted for comparing the current temperature detected by the temperature sensor with a predetermined temperature indicative of a proper operating temperature for the device, the temperature comparison section comprising,

a differential amplifier adapted for outputting a difference between signals which are inputted respectively into anode and cathode terminals thereof;

a first resistance pad connected to the temperature sensor;

a second resistance pad connected to the anode terminal of the differential amplifier and spaced from the first resistance pad;

a third resistance pad connected to the cathode terminal of the differential amplifier and spaced from the first and second resistance pads; and,

a fourth resistance pad arranged for receiving a signal corresponding to the predetermined temperature and spaced from the first, second, and third resistance pads, wherein the first to fourth resistance pads are selectively short-circuited with one another according to a type of the temperature sensor so as to vary the polarity of the signals inputted into the differential amplifier.

2. The temperature controller according to claim 1, wherein the temperature sensor comprises an NTC sensor, the first and second resistance pads being

short-circuited with each other, and the third and fourth resistance pads being short-circuited with each other.

3. The temperature controller according to claim 1, wherein the temperature sensor comprises a PTC sensor, the first and third resistance pads being short-circuited with each other, and the second and fourth resistance pads being short-circuited with each other. 5 10

4. The temperature controller according to one of claims 1 to 3, further comprising at least one resistor having resistance of 0Ω which short-circuits the resistance pads with one another. 15

5. A method of maintaining the temperature of an optical communication device, comprising:

detecting a current temperature of the device; 20
comparing the current temperature to a predetermined temperature;
generating a signal which represent a difference between the current temperature and the predetermined temperature; and, 25
providing a plurality of resistance pads that are selectively short-circuited with one another according to a type of the temperature sensor so as to vary the polarity of the signals inputted into the differential amplifier. 30

6. The method according to claim 5, adapted to operate the temperature controller of one of claims 1 to 4. 35

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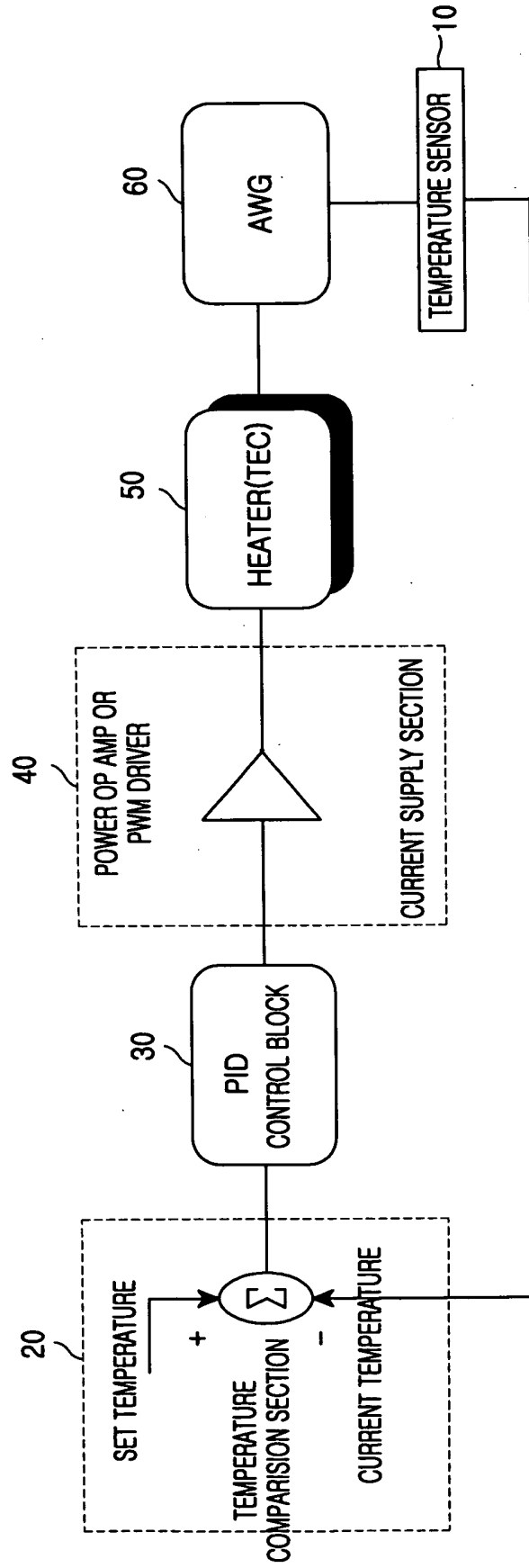


FIG. 1

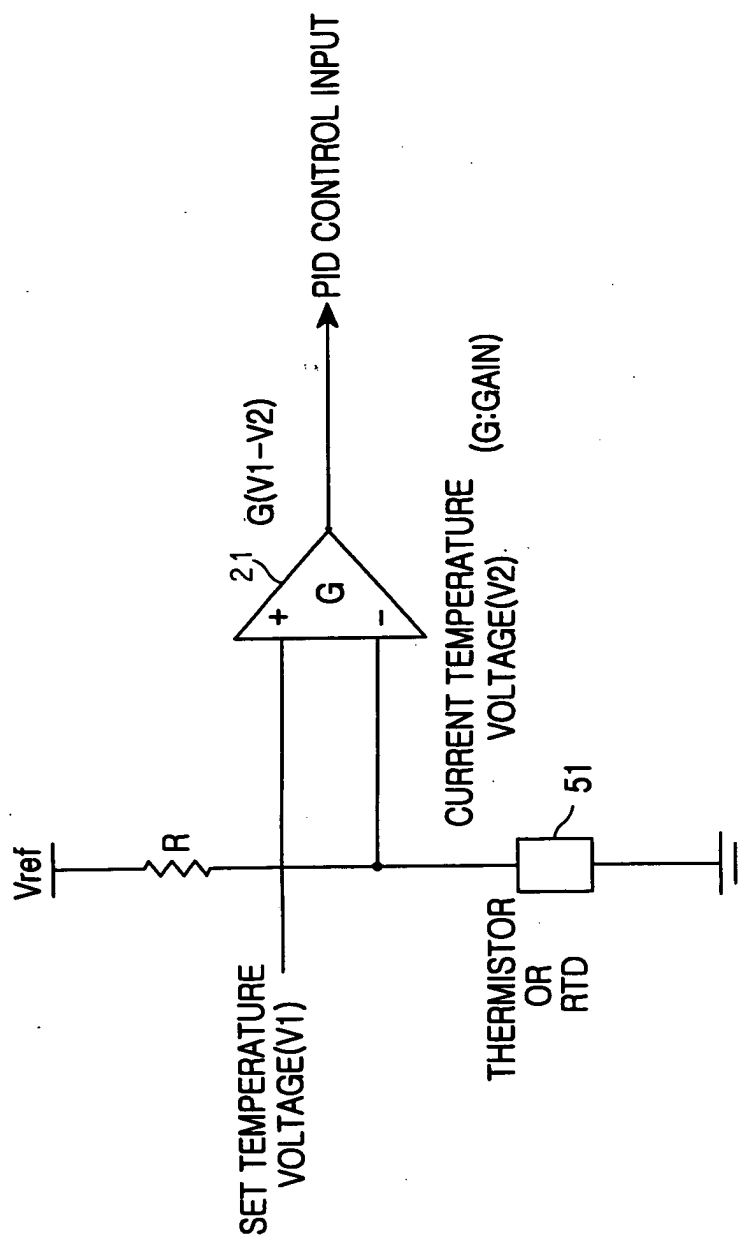


FIG. 2

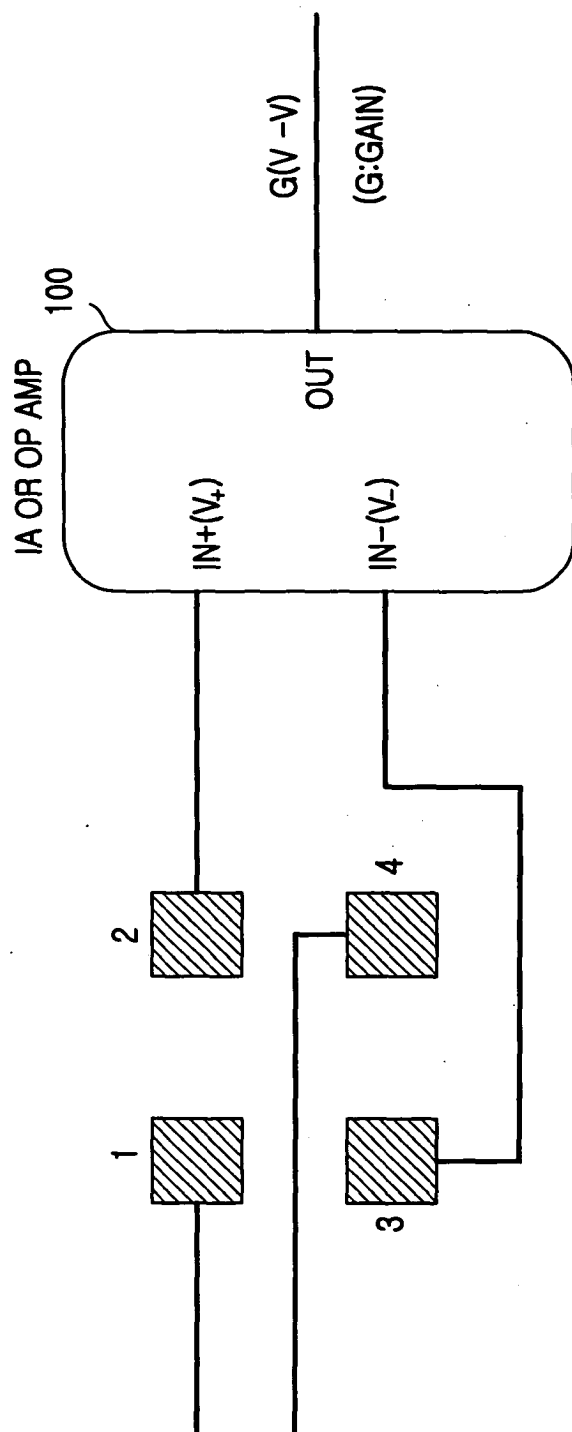


FIG.3

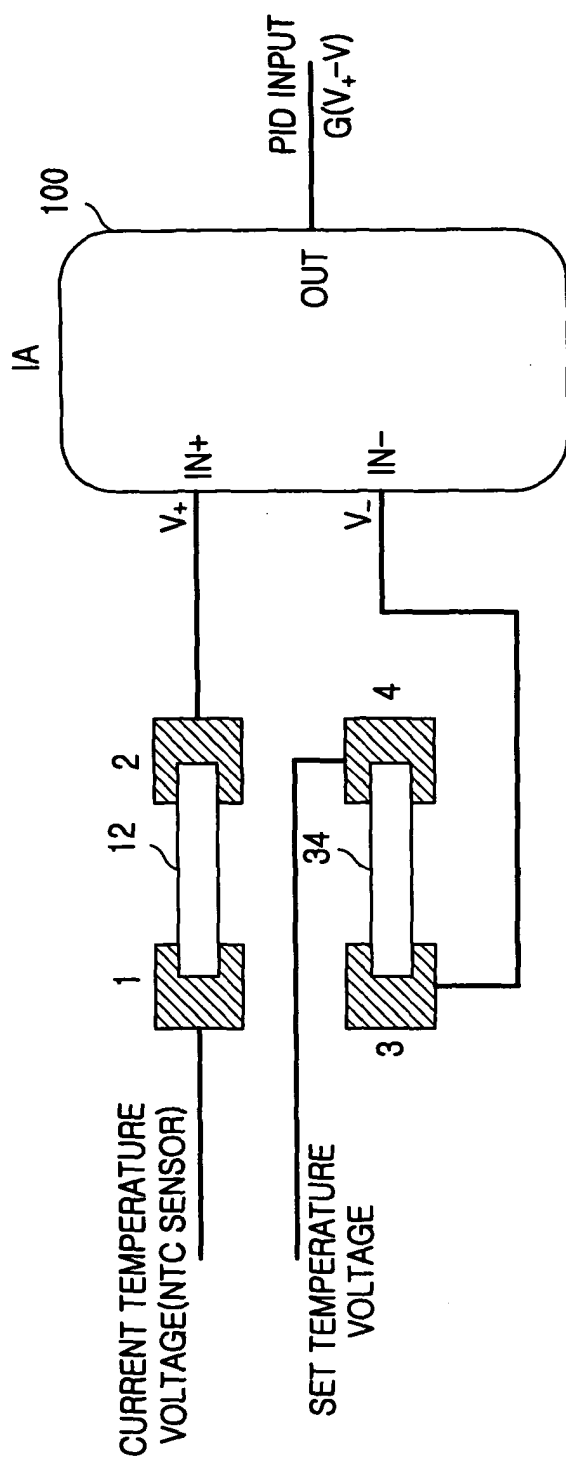


FIG. 4

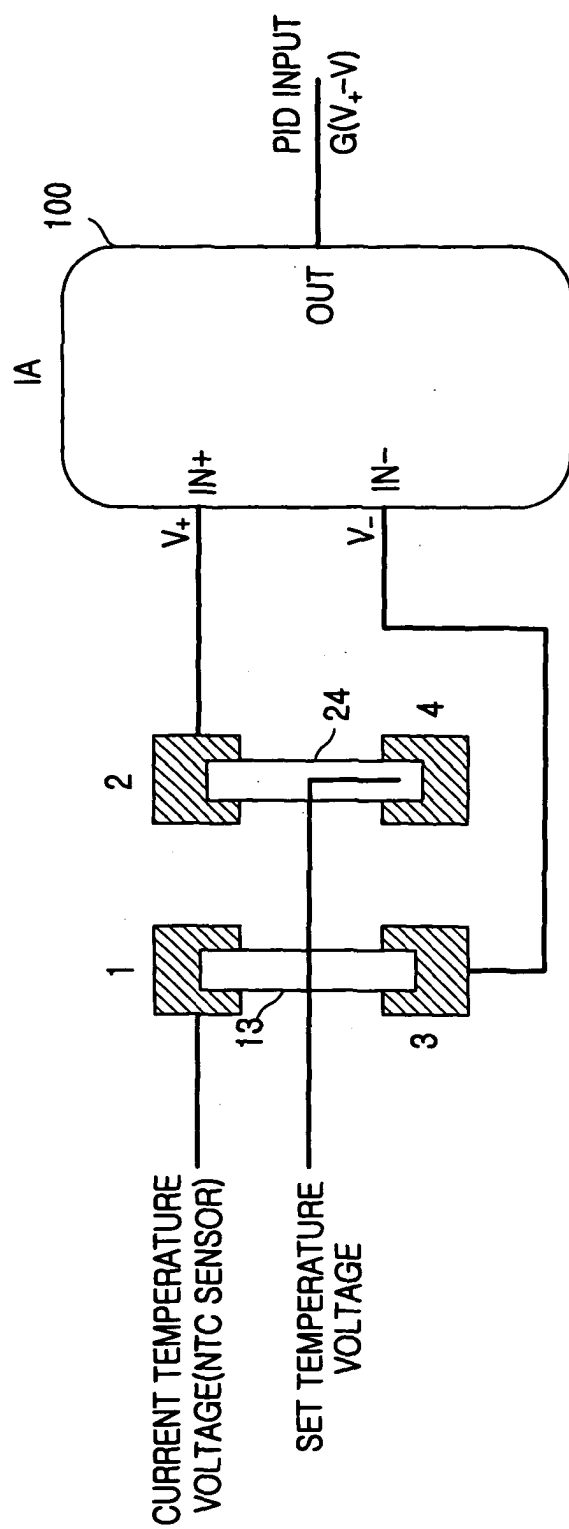


FIG. 5



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 02 0350

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 4 December 2003	Examiner Helot, H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EP 03 02 0350

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